

**HR001117S0033**  
**Cyber Assured Systems Engineering (CASE)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**As of June 6, 2017**

**Q18. On page 6 of the BAA announcement, it says that a required breakthrough includes "tools to automatically adapt software to new non-functional requirements":**

- **Is the intent/vision for these tools to be applied once to any given software in order to embody it with (more) resilience, or that the tools would be applied repeatedly to patch it in response to new threats / requirements?**
- **If the latter, given the long update cycle of defense systems, how will this technology provide adequate and responsive resilience?**

A18. The tools are applied once, at design time.

**Q17. Is the intent/vision for these tools to be applied to, and to directly modify, source and/or binary code?**

A17. Solutions for both source code and binary are in scope for CASE.

**Q16. How does CASE relate to RADICS? (e.g., CASE could insert parameterized, extensible resilience that RADICS tools could configure and control)**

A16. It is not related.

**Q15. Can you tell us what the overall size of the program, as well as the TAs?**

A15. The size of the program has not been predetermined, as it will depend on the proposals received. DARPA anticipates multiple awards in technical areas (TAs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; and a single award in TA7.

**Q14. For TA2, proposers choose the modeling language in Phase 1, but will DARPA choose modeling language in Phase 2 and 3? Will DARPA's choice be based on languages used by selected TA2 performers or some other factors?**

A14. The modeling languages chosen by TA2 performers will influence this decision. The modeling languages used by the platform providers (TA6) will also have an impact on this decision.

**Q13. Can a proposer submit a proposal for TA7 and a separate proposal for another TA in 1-5, with the understanding that if they were selected for TA7, they could not be selected for any of the other TA proposals?**

A13. Yes.

**Q12. III.D.2 (p. 25) Other Eligibility Reqs indicates proposer must have personnel with SECRET clearance. Can you explain this requirement further, and must all subcontractors also have personnel with SECRET clearance? What limitations will there be on members of a CASE team who lack SECRET clearance?**

A12. The technology developed in TAs 1-5 will all be unclassified. The demonstration TA6 demonstration platforms may be classified up to the SECRET level. Consequently, every team must have one secret cleared person to participate in classified discussion, if needed. This person must have a final clearance by the start of Phase 3.

**Q11. TA6 says experimental and demo platforms have to be "related." How related?**

A11. The experimental platform must provide technical challenges relevant to the demonstration platform.

**Q10. The BAA says all performers have to be able to handle SECRET, but that the program is intended to be unclassified. Which is true/what is needed? While the BAA mentions that an institution must have personnel cleared at the SECRET level, will most of the work anticipated to be unclassified?**

A10. The technology developed in TAs 1-5 will all be unclassified. The demonstration TA6 demonstration platforms may be classified up to the SECRET level. Consequently, every team must have one secret-cleared person to participate in classified discussion, if needed. This person must have a final clearance by the start of Phase 3.

**Q9. How groundbreaking/challenging do you want TA1 performers to be? Traditionally, system building tools have addressed rather generic threats: buffer overflow, intercepted communication paths, etc. There is possibility that TA1 performers could take a much larger scope and produce threats that are very hard to express as, for instance, logical formulas. Do you encourage TA 1 performers to do this?**

A9. Refer to the BAA's Table 2: Evaluation Goals and Measures.

**Q8. Is the measure of "cyber resilience" left to the performer to specify?**

A8. Refer to the BAA's Table 2: Evaluation Goals and Measures.

**Q7. Does the successful Phase 3 performer deliver tools which can generate compiled code?**

A7. The goal in Phase 3 is to re-engineer a relevant portion of an existing system. The modified system will be complete and functional.

**Q6. Are FFRDCs eligible to be a TA7 performer?**

A6. FFRDCs are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this BAA in any capacity unless they meet the following conditions: (1) FFRDCs must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is not otherwise available from the private sector. (2) FFRDCs must provide a letter on official letterhead from their sponsoring organization, citing the specific authority establishing their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry, and their compliance with the associated FFRDC sponsor agreement's terms and conditions. This information is required for FFRDCs proposing to be awardees or subawardees.

**Q5. What are the bounds on confidence of vulnerability estimate?**

A5. Refer to the BAA's Table 2: Evaluation Goals and Measures.

**Q4. Does TA2 explicitly include Byzantine failure?**

A4. Refer to the BAA's Table 2: Evaluation Goals and Measures.

**Q3. The architecture level technologist (verified operation systems) that help with both legacy and non-legacy components, to which TA would they best belong?**

A3. Architecture-level design and verification technologies belong in TA2.

**Q2. Do you envision the tool evaluations and end-of-phase platform evaluations being "take-home" exams that performers do at their own sites or do you envision having teams come together at DARPA or some other common location to do them?**

A2. The TA7 performer will determine the format of the evaluations.

**Q1. How "accessible" does experimental platform has to be?**

A1. The design data and software of the experimental platform will need to be accessible by all performers.